(c) and (d) A study conducted by a Voluntary Organization "Plan International (India)" titled "Impact. of Corporal Punishment on School Children: A Research Study" reported (May, 2006), *Inter-alia* reported that "at least five (05) beatings per class per day" was quite common in schools visited by the research team. The study also reported that only six States had undertaken concrete effort to implement the Supreme Court Order prohibiting corporal punishment.

(e) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of the State Government. The National Policy on Education 1986, as modified in 1992, *inter-alia* states that "corporal punishment will be strictly excluded from school system". This Ministry has written to all State Governments on 17.12.2007 requesting them to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools under the jurisdiction of State Governments in the spirit of National Policy on Education. So far 15 States/Union Territories have informed this Ministry that corporal punishment has either already been prohibited in schools under their respective jurisdiction or action has been initiated to prohibit the same. Corporal punishment has also been strictly prohibited in schools run by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, schools affiliated to CBSE and Central Tibetan School Administration, which are autonomous organizations under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Multi-skilled syllabi in IITs

t3597. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of IITs selected across the country, for implementing the multi-skilled syllabi under excellent centre scheme and the names of IITs of Uttarakhand included among these;

(b) whether the amount has been sanctioned for upgradation of all IITs under the World Bank project; and

(c) if so, the amount spent under this head in Uttarakhand during 2006-07 and the amount likely to be spent during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no excellent centre scheme in the Indian Institutes of Technology (HTs) for implementing multi-skilled syllabi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of Employees in Central Universities

t3598. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge shortage in the number of teaching and non-teaching employees in Central Universities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that education of Universities is also suffering due to these vacant posts and educational institutes are unable to function smoothly and properly;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government is taking any effective steps to tackle this problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), around 20% teaching posts and 18% non-teaching posts were lying vacant in Central Universities as on 31st October, 2007. Some of the Universities have reported that they are facing problems due to shortage of non-teaching staff.

Each Central University is governed by its individual Act of Parliament and the Statutes made thereunder. In terms of the relevant Statutes, the appointments to the teaching as also non-teaching posts in a University are made by its Executive Council/Board of Management on the recommendations of a Selection Committee constituted in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes. The Selection Committee includes, *inter-alia,* a nominee of the visitor, in so far as teaching posts and certain non-teaching posts specified in the Statutes are concerned. In view of the foregoing, while this Ministry role is limited to providing the Visitor's nominees to the Selection Committees, the Government, through the UGC, keeps reminding the Central Universities to fill the vacant posts. To sum up the other steps taken, the UGC has requested all the Universities to make use of the existing provision for re-employment of superannuated teachers as per the norms of the Commission; the Central Government has enhanced the age of superannuation from 62 to 65 years in respect of teachers of Central Universities, amongst other centrally funded institutions under the purview of this Ministry; and while the Expenditure Reforms Commission had imposed a ban on filling up of non-teaching posts, each Central University has been authorized to fill up technical posts, amongst non-teaching ministerial posts, and report to the UGC for ratification by a Committee constituted for the purpose.

Checking of irregularities in private schools

3599. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute an authority to check irregularities in private schools;

(b) whether some public schools, which were given land at concessional rates, were not providing free education to the poor children, in accordance with the land allotment terms;

(c) whether Government is aware that many public schools are not appointing proper qualified teaching professionals, and are also not giving salary to them as per Government scales; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check these kinds of irregularities in private schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Education being a concurrent subject, private schools primarily come under the purview of the State Governments So far as private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are concerned, appropriate action including withdrawal of affiliation is resorted to if any school is found guilty of irregularities.